

Dear Shir Chadash Family and Friends,
Welcome to letter #5.

And we started with a bang!

About 25 of us met for the last time at the Meeting House on Friday the 5th. Remembering the many simchas of the last 8 years, we took our century-old Torah out into the sunshine of Hooker Avenue and started walking (kids running) toward the Town of LaGrange. Arriving at FPPC, we were met by another 40 and welcomed with song by Cantor Hirschenfang and the Shir Chadash Choir as we entered our new sanctuary. All that was missing was the blast of the shofar. For that we'll just wait 19 days. A few photos... http://www.shir-chadash.org/newhome_page1.asp (more will be posted next week).

On Saturday, Sept 6th, we held our first Sharing Shabbat.

At 9:00 a.m. parents and kids started arriving. We have real classrooms now. The teachers started teaching all ages in earnest and Rabbi Polish led us (the elders), and was led by us (we're sort of unmanageable) through a discussion of how a new system of justice was introduced. Fairness.

Equity. Rich being treated without deference. Poor being equal before the law. These were revolutionary ideas. At the service which followed, the Junior Choir was amazing (not an exaggeration – ask anyone who was there). Thanks to Erica Bill for her thoughtful and memorable d'var Torah, which included her observations on teen drinking and police. Yes, you should have come. Ask Erica for further

details.

And come participate in an equally wonderful day on our 2nd Sharing Shabbat on Sept 20th . D'var Torah will be by the O'Herron/Pollack Family.

Appletinnis Anyone?

Our 3rd Annual “Get to know us” Cocktail Party will be this coming Saturday, Sept. 13th from 5-7 p.m. at Roberta Tracy’s house.

LOCATION - 34 Vanderburgh Road,
Poughquag, NY 12570 . . . 227-0448,
tracyajrs@aol.com.

Have a drink, eat some hummus and some cheese and some sweets, schmuz a little, chat with Rabbi Polish or Cantor Hirschenfang. Meet someone new (*meeting new people is very healthful!*)

Find out what Shir Chadash is really about.

Admission for members – you must bring a friend!

If you are coming, please call 223-5925 or email
info@shir-chadash.org.

Have you seen our new Sanctuary yet?

It is bright, airy, free from religious iconography, freshly painted and carpeted, with cushioned pews, a magnificent chandelier and air conditioning.

It is our transitional home, and it's a beautiful and spiritual worship space.

Join us this Friday, Sept. 12th, at 7:30 for our 2nd Friday Night Service. We will install our hard-working new officers and board of trustees, each of whom chairs a committee.

**In our paper newsletter there was a POSTER...
“JEWISH? – Seeking a vibrant Reform
Congregation that “feels right?”**

This is the famous Jeff Lash poster. And it’s helped a lot of people find us. But it will not do its job buried in a stack of papers in your kitchen. Please find a grocery store or a telephone pole or someplace and post it! And speaking of our community, if you have a friend who might enjoy Shir Chadash and relish a sense of belonging, send their name and email or phone number to Melinda Pearson, chair of our membership committee melindapearson@optonline.net. If you send an email address, they will start to receive these weekly e-mails. If you send a phone number, a very friendly person will invite them to one of our events.

An environmental note.

If you come to the next Sharing Shabbat, bring your own coffee cup.

**“How to Raise a Jewish Child” STARTS
TONIGHT! You can still register (223-5925**

or infor@shir-chadash.org) - a class taught by Rabbi Polish and Cantor Hirschenfang, will be held each Thursday night, at 7PM at the Daily Planet Diner, on Route 55, just west of the Taconic parkway, down the street from FPPC. We provide coffee and dessert and babysitting. The class is

free and open to all; you need not be a member. The classes will cover: holiday celebrations, talking about Jewish values, the December Dilemma, and talking about G-d. You can still call 223-5925 to register. We welcome all kinds of families: traditional / non-traditional, single-parent, families with two Jewish parents or just one, anyone interested in raising a Jewish child.

Book of Remembrance. I don't know why, but it means something to put the names of loved ones down on paper and share it with the congregation. It will be a simple book with words from Rabbi Polish, and prayers, and a listing of names. See your newsletter for details. **UPDATE: We have already gotten 40 names. Don't wait for the last minute. The form is in your newsletter.**

Many people have asked me for a Temple directory. The directory contains: name, address, phone number, e-mail address.

We do plan to send out the Directory. It's a way for people to learn each other's names and be able to reach each other. It is, of course, forbidden to use the information for any

commercial purpose.

If you do NOT want your contact information included, please send me an email by Sept. 12th. **This will be the final opportunity to opt out.** Thanks.

REMINDER... Everyone should have received their pledge letters by now. Yes they went out late. Our fiscal year began on July 1st. They were late because illness sidelined me for almost a month and a half (I'm fine now!). BUT, it means that we are short. SO, please send in your pledges asap. Some people pay upfront for the year. That's great. Others pay monthly. That's fine as well. The important part is to get started. THANKS!

Let's live our values...

There is a food bank emergency. Dutchess Outreach provides a three-day supply of groceries to families once per month...they require an application to DSS for public assistance/food stamps, but provide food aid whether or not the application is approved). Dutchess Outreach received requests for aid from 30 new families last month, a huge increase in the number of new applicants for their services.

They are facing a decrease in food supplies from the regional food bank, which is having difficulty due to the increase in the cost of food and transportation. Dutchess Outreach notes that their shelves are quite empty, and that they do not have the staples they need at this time. THEY

NEED: Peanut Butter ***** (Most important item), Canned High-Quality Protein (Tuna Fish, Chili, Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, etc.), Spaghetti Sauce, Mac and Cheese in a box, Canned Soup, Canned Fruit, Jelly (For PB & J sandwiches), They have plenty of cereal and pasta. SO... **please bring a food item to each service in September.**

We'll have a collection bin. We will still be having our normal collection at Yom Kippur, but the need is here today. Our neighbors are under a strain. This is a great way to show your kids (and ourselves) that we are our brother's keeper.

AND, we are collecting school supplies at each service this month for the kids who end up with nothing at Grace Smith House, a home for battered women. Bring notebooks, backpacks, paper, pens, (see your newsletter or contact John Wallach – jwallach@hunter.cuny.edu for further details)

Thanks to the Feuer's and the Kaswer's for fixing dinner for 50 people at the Dutchess County Homeless Shelter (Hillcrest House) on August 28th.

They represent us well.

Thanks to Steve Herschbein, who has agreed to be our official Shir Chadash Archivist! If you have photos of Shir Events please send them to Steve at herscs@us.ibm.com

FPPC is Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterians have generously welcomed us into their building.

Check our website frequently. www.shir-chadash.org
<<http://www.shir-chadash.org/>> .

FOR REFERENCE here are YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS and COORDINATORS:

Lisa Roth – Adult Education and Programming –
rlbordo@verizon.net

Melinda Pearson – Membership –
melindapearson@optonline.net

Victor Feit – Fundraising – rebef2@cs.com

John Wallach – Social Action – jwallach@hunter.cuny.edu

Jodi Wolff – Family & Education – jiwolff@verizon.net

Jerry Scheck – Spiritual Life – jerryscheck@optonline.net

Ed Ginsberg – Building and Liaison to Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church – ginsberg@edwnewhomes.com

Gloria Goverman – Finance – gloria@goverman.com

Lisa Kerchman – Publicity - Kerchmanmom@cs.com

TBA - Concert

Fern Lox - Oneg Coordinator – phlox@optonline.net

Roberta Tracy – Shabbat Dinner Coordinator
– tracyajrs@aol.com

Rich Bordowitz – Cemetery Coordinator –
rlbordo@verizon.net

Lois Weber – Voice Advisory Committee (a Federation Committee) – okweber@yahoo.com

Jerry Scheck – High Holiday Coordinator –

jerryscheck@optonline.net

Diane Light-Spiro – Yahrzeit Coordinator –

dianelightspiro@hotmail.com

Steve Herschbein – Archivist – herscs@us.ibm.com

If you are getting this weekly e-mail in error, please send a note to info@shir-chadash.org and you will be removed from the mailing list.